

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending. Claims 1, 13, and 28 are amended. The remaining claims are unchanged.

The claim amendments are supported by the application as published (U.S. Published App. No. 20030053459), for instance, in paragraphs 0076, 0089, and 0097-0100. No new matter has been added.

In the December 28th Office Action, claims 1-34 were rejected under 35 USC 112, as not complying with the enablement requirement.

Applicant's specification explains what is meant by a service "acting on" a message, for example, in paragraph 0089:

[0089] Message interchange network 150 also provides a mechanism for a service to act on a message without the message being physically delivered to the service over the Internet. This mechanism is enabled through the logical routing of the message to the service. With logical routing, a service can modify the routing of the message or modify the context of the message for delivery to the next service. Significantly, a service can be logically included in a message routing, without being included as part of the physical routing of the message.

In the interest of providing clarity, the independent claims have been amended to replace "act on" with related language consistent with the above-quoted passages of Applicant's specification. For further explanation, the Examiner is invited to review paragraphs 0076 and 0097-0100 of Applicant's specification.

Applicant submits that the 35 USC 112 rejection should be withdrawn in view of the amendments to claims 1, 13, and 28. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Lastly, Applicant's Attorney requests that the Examiner telephone him at the number below, before issuing a further Office Action, if the Examiner believes that further claim amendments/arguments are needed to place the application in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a further telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, it is requested that he contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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